

Arrest of the former PM of Pakistan & Riots in Pakistan

May 10, 2023

May 9, 2023: Islamabad, Pakistan: At 2.15 PM, National Accountability Bureau arrested Imran Khan, former Prime Minister of Pakistan from the premises of Islamabad High Court.

Mr. Imran Khan had gone to Islamabad High Court (IHC) in connection with his indictment in a case of unlawfully selling state gifts during his premiership, in a case brought by the Election Commission. He was arrested by Pakistan Rangers, an armed force, used in Pakistan for both internal security and border security.

A statement from the inspector general of Punjab police said the arrest of Mr. Khan had been ordered because he was accused of "corruption and corrupt practices". The case involves allegations over a bribe of billions of rupees and valuable land in Islamabad worth hundreds of kanals (100 kanals = about 12.5 acres) to the Al Qadir Trust by a real estate firm for legalizing Rs 50 billion that was identified and returned to the country by the UK during the period when Mr. Khan was the Prime Minister. The Al-Qadir Trust is owned by Mr. Khan and his wife.

The lawyers for Mr. Imran Khan challenged the legality of the procedure for the arrest. But by 12 mid-night, **IHC ruled the arrest to be legal.**

May 10, 2023: The NAB Court remanded Mr. Khan in custody for eight days in the Al Qadir case.

Imran Khan has pleaded not guilty to all the corruption charges against him. Imran Khan is fighting a number of cases, filed against him by different agencies of the Government of Pakistan. For months crowds of his supporters had kept vigil around his residence and prevented Police from reaching Imran Khan. At times his supporters had fought pitched battles with police to keep him out of custody.

Note: The Al Qadir Case: www.DiGiNews360.com has not published details of the case. The readers may refer to "Times of India" at <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/south-asia/explained-the-case->

[against-imran-khan/articleshow/100122130.cms](https://www.dawn.com/news/1751790/imran-arrest-what-is-the-al-qadir-trust-case) or “The Dawn” at <https://www.dawn.com/news/1751790/imran-arrest-what-is-the-al-qadir-trust-case> to obtain more information about the case.



*Former Prime Minister of Pakistan: Imran Khan
(Reference: <https://www.insaf.pk/>)*

Riots all over Pakistan in protest against Mr. Imran Khan’s arrest: Within hours of Mr. Imran Khan’s arrest, even while the IHC was listening to the arguments of the lawyers about legality of Mr. Khan’s arrest, protesters began gathering, some carrying with them PTI flags or wearing Imran Khan face masks.



The home of a Corps Commander of Pakistan army and the Governor's House were vandalized. Many military and police vehicles were burnt and some military and air force establishments, including the Head Quarters of Pakistan Army and ISI's Offices in Rawalpindi and its largest Training College in Abbotabad were attacked.

The present STATUS: Mobile internet services remain heavily restricted across the country. Pakistan's telecommunication authorities said they had suspended services on instructions from the interior ministry. Crowds of Protesters are on the road in some areas all over Pakistan.

Schools also remain closed; some highways have been blocked and there is very little normal traffic on roads in major cities.

The Prime Minister in his televised address at 10 PM has appealed for peace and has justified the arrest. An Emergency is reported to have been imposed in Pakistan.

The Army has condemned the vandalization of some of its establishments and has issued a warning that stringent action would be taken against the miscreants.

BACKGROUND: In April 2022, Imran Khan, 70, lost a parliamentary no-confidence vote and Mr. Shahbaz Sharif, leader of an alliance of parties, took over as the Prime Minister. However, Khan has blamed a US Government officer and the army for conspiring to remove him as the Prime Minister.

Mr. Khan was wounded in a November attack on his convoy as he led a protest march to Islamabad calling for snap general elections. He had accused Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, Major General Faisal Naseer of ISI and Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah for the attack on him.

Mr. Khan's party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has won many bye-elections and may come to power in case elections are held in Pakistan today. His stand on blasphemy and against Islamophobia during his speech as the Prime Minister of Pakistan at UN General Assembly has been very popular in Pakistan.

Pakistan is facing a severe financial crisis and the people have been suffering from high inflations and non-availability of essential goods. In the midst of the crisis, the political instability is likely to increase the difficulties being faced by the people.
